

Latham Adds Ex-Assistant AG To Its Antitrust Practice In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (April 5, 2022, 3:34 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has added the onetime top antitrust attorney in former President Donald Trump's U.S. Department of Justice to its antitrust and trial department in Washington, D.C., the firm announced Tuesday.

Makan Delrahim, who was confirmed as assistant attorney general by the U.S. Senate in 2017 by a 73-21 vote, joins the firm as a partner after most recently serving as a chairperson of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Working Party 3 until January of last year.



Makan Delrahim

The firm noted that while Delrahim is currently a resident of its Washington, D.C. office, he is looking to expand his antitrust-focused practice to Southern California.

In a statement Tuesday, Delrahim said he was looking forward to starting his new role.

"When it came time to consider my next move, Latham made the most sense for so many reasons, not least of which is the extraordinary strength and depth of the firm's global platform, as well as the premier, market-leading antitrust group," he said. "Latham's strong and growing capabilities in the U.S. and around the world, especially in an increasingly global regulatory environment, will allow me to use my experience to best serve the needs of clients."

At the Justice Department, Delrahim oversaw criminal investigations and indictments related to antitrust violations, and reviewed hundreds of mergers and acquisitions, the firm said. Along with that work, Delrahim published the department's first revision of vertical merger guidelines in 36 years in 2020, created the agency's financial services and fintech section, and was the architect of the DOJ's first corporate compliance in criminal investigation policy, the firm said.

He earned his law degree from George Washington University Law School and his undergraduate degree from the University of California Los Angeles, according to his LinkedIn profile. He also holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Delrahim did not return a request for comment Tuesday.

He started his legal career at Patton Boggs LLP — now known as Squire Patton Boggs LLP — in 1995, leaving the firm three years later to serve in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He was eventually

made chief counsel of the committee, according to his LinkedIn profile.

In 2003, following his time at the Judiciary Committee, Delrahim was appointed by former President George W. Bush to become the Justice Department's deputy assistant attorney general, where he worked on a task force dedicated to intellectual property protection.

He was also a commissioner on Bush's Antitrust Modernization Commission, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Delrahim also teaches law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where he has worked as an adjunct professor since 2021, according to his LinkedIn profile. He teaches a course on mergers and acquisitions, and the role of national and international governments, according to Latham.

He has over six years of teaching experience, having worked previously as an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, where he taught government and the regulation of the entertainment business, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Amanda Reeves, who leads Latham's antitrust and competition group, said in a statement Tuesday that Delrahim joining the firm would broaden the firm's ability to navigate antitrust work. Between Delrahim and Carles Esteve Mosso in Brussels, who joined the firm last year, Latham has competition enforcers in both the U.S. and Europe, Reeves said.

"We've worked incredibly hard over the years to further build out a formidable, highly experienced team," she said. "Makan brings an enforcer's perspective and a savvy business acumen to our world-class practice, and his arrival marks yet another important step in the continuing development of our capabilities in the U.S. and around the globe."

Michael Egge, a partner in the firm's antitrust practice, said in a statement Tuesday that Delrahim's experience in shaping antitrust enforcement policies would be invaluable to the firm's competition and antitrust practice.

"In addition to his deep knowledge of competition and regulatory law, his leadership and unmatched capabilities make him a prominent trailblazer on the world's antitrust and business stage," he said. "His role on the Antitrust Modernization Commission, a who's who of the top competition minds in the country, is a further testament to his exemplary leadership."

Last March, the firm added former Federal Trade Commission Competition Bureau Chief Ian Conner to its antitrust and competition practice. In New York, the firm announced Monday it had added antitrust and competition partner Katherine A. Rocco from Kirkland & Ellis LLP, according to a statement from the firm.

Last year showed been an uptick in lateral moves by antitrust lawyers at several big firms, with 117 lawyers changing firms as of November 2021.

--Additional reporting by Bryan Koenig and Justin Wise. Editing by Lakshna Mehta.